

Pewsey Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1941



Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 22nd Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 2604 dated March 24th, 1942.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931 : 14,292

Population—Estimated Mid. 1941—15,910.

Area, 75,828 Acres

Rateable Value : £92,238

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £390 0 0

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1941 :
3,757.

Births, 1941.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Live	152	151	303	(13 Illegitimate)
Still	5	5	10	(2 Illegitimate)

Birth Rate, 1941.		England and Wales	
Live	19.00	Live	14.2
Still	0.63	Still	0.51

Birth Rate		Average last 10 years	18.2
England and Wales		" " 10 "	13.5
Deaths : Males, 78.	Females 72.	Total,	150.

Death Rate	(1941)	9.4	Average last 10 years	10.8
England and Wales	"	12.9	" " 10 "	12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 10
Females 3. Total, 13.

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	42.9	(1941)
England and Wales	59.0	"
Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years	46.5	"
England and Wales	59.0	"

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease.	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	16 (2 Mil).	12 (2 Mil).	0
Diphtheria ...	6 (1 Mil).	6 (1 Mil).	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	13	0	0
Erysipelas ...	4 (1 Mil).	1 (Mil).	0
Measles ...	316	0	3
Whooping Cough	123	2	2
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6 (2 Mil).	6 (2 Mil).	0
Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	0

Scarlet Fever. Four cases were notified during the first half of the year and the remainder after September 1st, they were all sporadic cases.

Diphtheria. Six cases were notified after August 2nd, all being sporadic cases, only one of these died the second death given by the Registrar General being an inward transferable death from another district and was not one of my notified cases.

Pneumonia. 13 cases were notified to me, of these none died, the other deaths given by the Registrar General being either broncho-pneumonia, which is not notifiable or inward transferable deaths.

Erysipelas. The four cases notified call for no comment.

Measles and Whooping Cough. 316 of the former and 123 of the latter were notified.

The first part of the year was nearly all measles, the middle part was a fairly equal mixture of both and the latter part was mainly whooping cough.

Three deaths from measles are given by the Registrar General, only one of these had been notified to me, the other two occurred in an institution and had not been notified.

Two deaths from whooping cough are given and neither of these had been notified, they were both under two months old.

Cerebro-spinal Fever. Only six cases of this disease were notified and of these two were military cases and all occurred during the first part of the year, none of the civilian cases died, I have no records of the military cases.

Acute Poliomyelitis. One case was notified which was admitted to the Isolation Hospital.

Tuberculosis. Twenty cases of all kinds of Tuberculosis were notified to me during the year, of these three died ; one a child of $1\frac{1}{2}$ who died within a month of notification, another was transferred from London and died within a week of notification and the third died within a month of notification. The child of $1\frac{1}{2}$ had intercurrent whooping Cough. One further death was previously notified.

The Notifications were :—

Male Pulm.	2	between 20-25	1	between 25-35
	2	„ 35-45	1	„ 45-55
Female Pulm.	1	„ 1-5	1	„ 15-20
	5	„ 25-35	1	„ 45-55
Male Non. P.	1	„ 5-10	1	„ 10-15
Female Non. P.	1	under 1	1	„ 1-5
	1	between 25-35	1	„ 45-55

Of the above one was in an institution and probably belonged to another district, one was discharge from the Army, 4 were transfers from other districts, one has since proved not to be tubercular and one had been previously notified and so only twelve really fresh cases were notified from the locality.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. At the end of 1940 the Ministry of Health started a campaign for mass immunisation of children between the ages of one year and 15 against diphtheria, and the Council joined in the effort.

During the year 493 children under 5 years of age and 1782 between five and 15 were immunised.

The above figures worked out as far as could be ascertained that 33% of the children under five were done and 72% of those between 5 and 15.

This only gives an approximate figure as it does not take into account those who were done privately or those done before coming to the district.

The above figures have been brought up to 528 and 1790 to date (Aug., 1942).

Water Supplies.

Both the public supplies in the district are now chlorinated. No complaints of taste have been received. Samples taken regularly for bacteriological examination show satisfactory results.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The work of completing the house connections at Pewsey has been slow, due mainly to the difficulty in obtaining labour and materials. There has, however, been a number of new connections to the main sewers.

The sewage disposal works have given no trouble during the year with the exception of a few complaints of smell when the sludge beds are being cleaned. Chloride of lime is now sprinkled over the sludge as it is being removed and no further complaints have been received.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of Pewsey, only a small number of conversions have been made in the district. These have been effected mainly when improvements and alterations have been carried out to private properties.

Public Cleansing.

The Council maintains a periodic collection of household refuse throughout the district and the frequent cleansing of sewer ditches in several of the Parishes.

The salvage activities of the Council have done much to reduce the bulk of refuse to be dumped. All tins are baled and a variety of other materials salvaged.

The daily treatment of the dump with Cyanogas keeps the site comparatively free from rats and vermin.

Milk Supplies.

Periodic inspections of all cowsheds and dairies in the district were made during the year. It was noted that the standard of production tended to drop, but every effort was made to bring home to producers the necessity of producing clean milk and of maintaining as high a standard as possible. The chief difficulties experienced by producers were shortage of labour and pressure of other agricultural work.

Number of samples taken during the year, 144.

Legal Action.

It was not deemed necessary to take any legal action during the year.

Housing.

The greater part of the work done under the Housing Acts has been carried out as a result of informal action.

Although a large number of houses have been inspected for the purpose of the survey which was begun in 1940, no formal action was taken as a result of these inspections. Unfortunately the work on the survey had to be discontinued because of the pressure of other work.

Four Demolition Orders were made during the year.

Overcrowding.

There is a definite shortage of housing accommodation in the district due to an influx of population and the billeting of evacuees and Service personnel. Overcrowding is evident in practically every village, the more obvious cases occurring in the larger villages.

Under the existing circumstances it is practically impossible to maintain the standards laid down in the Housing Acts.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3.	Remedied by 4.	Remedied after verbal instructions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances ...	110	21	15	—	15	—	6
Slaughter- houses ...	494	8	—	—	—	—	8
Knaekers' Yards ...	29	5	—	—	—	—	5
Places where food is pre- pared ...	70	21	8	—	8	—	13
Cowsheds ...	296	25	10	—	10	—	15
Dairies and Milkstores							
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	10	7	7	—	7	—	—
Bakehouses	20	5	2	—	2	—	3
Butcher's Shops ...	216	16	3	—	3	—	13
Totals	1,245	108	45	—	45	—	63

Not classified above :—

Housing Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	191
Infectious Disease visits	...	...	...	...	...	33
Visits to Factories	...	...	...	...	...	16
Unclassified visits and inspections—water samples, drain testing, refuse collection, byelaws, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	216
Total Number of Visits	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,701

Milk and Dairies, etc.

Number of Wholesale Producers registered (1941)	...	...	162
„ Retail Purveyors registered (1941)	...	...	70
„ Certificates issued (Producers) during 1941	...	...	0
„ Certificates issued (Retailers) during 1941	...	...	1

Meat and Foods.

There has been no change in the slaughtering arrangements in the district. It is hoped that the practice of killing in a central slaughter-house will be continued after the war as this affords a much better means of inspection and the condition of the premises can be given more supervision.

Weight of meat condemned during the year 28,260 lbs.

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death.	M.	F.
All Causes	78	72	Appendicitis	1	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Other digest. diseases ..		
Cerebrospinal Fever ..			Nephritis	3	3
Scarlet Fever			Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Whooping Cough	1	1	Other maternal causes ..		1
Diphtheria	1	1	Premature birth	3	1
Tuberc. of Respir. syst. ..		3	Cong. malft. birth inj. Inf. dis.	3	1
Other form of Tuberc.			Suicide		
Syphilitic Discases	2		Road Traffic Act	1	2
Influenza		1	Other violent causes ..	2	
Measles	2	1	All other causes	9	8
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Ac. Inf. Enceph.			Total	10	3
Cancer of b. cav; and			Legitimate	8	3
oesoph (M.) 1	3		Illegitimate	2	
uterus (F)			Live Births		
Cancer of stomach and			For Birth-rate		
duodenum	2	3	Total	152	151
Cancer of breast		4	Legitimate	142	151
Cancer of all other sites ..	5	3	Illegitimate	10	3
Diabetes			For Inf. Mort.-rate		
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	4	3	Total	168	164
Heart disease	22	25	Legitimate	158	161
Other dis. of circ. syst. ..		2	Illegitimate	10	3
Bronchitis	2	2	Stillbirths		
Pneumonia	7	4	Total	5	5
Other Resp. diseases	2		Legitimate	4	4
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum			Illegitimate	1	1
Diarrhœa under two years	1		Population	15,910	